

Approved 03/10/2022

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Cordes called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at the Fremont Town Hall Basement Meeting Room with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were technical problems (no sound) so the meeting was not live broadcast. FCTV Coordinator Bill Millios arrived later and was able to tape some of the meeting for rebroadcast.

Present were Select Board members Gene Cordes, Roger Barham and Neal Janvrin; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson; Members of the Public Gordon Muench, Dot and Marvin Weed, Andy and Mary Lou Kohlhofer, Martha Shaw, Shauna Moore and Fremont Police Officer Michael Buckley. Chief Twiss joined the meeting at 6:45 pm.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chairman Cordes read through the announcements:

1. FCTV is pleased to announce that we will now be live streaming all of our meetings on Vimeo at the following link: <https://vimeo.com/fctv22>

Please note that the YouTube channel is no longer active and the Vimeo link is the new permanent site for streaming. Just click on the 'FCTV Live' thumbnail (which will appear just prior to the meeting time) at the top of our Vimeo page to connect with the live stream.

2. Information relative to upcoming meetings, hearings, Deliberative Session and Candidate Declaration are posted to the homepage of the Town's website. The Public Budget Hearing, Deliberative Session, candidate statements and other Town Meeting presentation information is being broadcast on FCTV and is available on the Vimeo site as well.

3. Get your dog licensed with the Town Clerk by April 30, 2022.

4. The Parks & Recreation Commission is doing a winter snow sculpture contest. Check the website home page news, the Commission's Facebook page, the Newsletter or FCTV for more information. Contest ends this weekend. Get your photos submitted.

5. Kindergarten Registration is underway at Ellis School for the September 2022 school year start. This information is available on the school website and FCTV bulletin board.

6. There is a vacancy on the Budget Committee. This is posted for letters of interest to be sent to the Budget Committee for review at their next meeting (likely April 2022). The Committee makes an appointment for one year until the March 2023 election.

7. FAA Sports Gear Swap is here again! The FAA will be collecting outgrown, good-condition sports gear (cleats, bats, gloves, etc.)! You know that stash in the garage that your kids have outgrown - well, we'd love to have it! Our collection is underway with bins at the Ellis School and the Fremont Public Library. Then on Saturdays, 3/19 and 3/26 from 8-10 am and Wednesday 3/23 from 5-7 pm, families can "shop" for free from the donated goods at the Fremont Town Hall. Spring sports are starting soon so we hope to recycle some of the community's sports gear back to other families before they go out and buy new. Please check the FAA website or Facebook page for more details or email Valeriejsm@gmail.com.

8. Fremont Age-Friendly Communities Initiative: What characteristics make Fremont a great place to grow up and grow old? Do you have thoughts on how Fremont can best engage and support older adults? If so, we want to hear from you! Fremont is working with the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) and Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels Program (RNMOW) to understand the needs of older adults now and in the future.

The first step in the assessment is a community survey. Your voice will help us understand what's working now and what is needed. Follow the link below for the online survey. Paper copies will be available at the Town Hall and Library. The survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes. Please complete the survey by March 24, 2022.

SURVEY LINK: <https://publicinput.com/AgeFriendlyFremont2022>

The work in Fremont is being led by a local project Steering Committee made up of town staff, elected officials, and community volunteers. For more information, please contact Library Director Eric Abney at (603) 895 9543.

9. The School Board will hold Public Hearings on March 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the Fremont Town Hall Basement Meeting Room, 295 Main Street, Fremont, NH 03044 to take public comment on the acceptance and expenditure of unanticipated funds from the Robotics Education Fund Grant for up to \$10,652 to support and expand the Lego Robotics Program. The second hearing will accept public comment on the withdrawal of funds from the Maintenance Trust fund. The requested amount is \$328,182.10 to be used for the replacement of the HVAC system.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

03/02/2022 Planning Board: Barham said the Board conditionally approved the lot line adjustment on 03-062 et al. New business included a conditional subdivision amendment on the Scribner Road Subdivision of parcel 01-082. The original plan had a provision for a fire cistern and the developer wants to omit that, and now all units will have sprinkler systems based on the updated conditional approval. Asplundh representing Eversource, was given approval for tree trimming on scenic North Road. They have a solid plan for tree maintenance to remove diseased trees and keep up with regular trimming. Barham stated this benefits the Town with a reduction in downed wires, and increase in system reliability. North Road is a major line in to Fremont. The next Planning Board meeting is in two weeks.

Election Officials conducted pre-election testing of the electronic ballot counting device on Wednesday March 2, 2022 at the Town Hall at 5:00 pm.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Janvrin to approve the minutes of 24 February 2022 as written. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

V. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS - times subject to change based on the flow of the meeting.

At approximately 6:40 pm the Board met with Dot Weed and some neighbors on Main Street. She asked for her son Marvin Weed to speak on her behalf. He came up to the table to speak with the Board. He said that they asked for time with the Board due to excessive shooting and concern about safety in their neighborhood on Main Street. He said he is understanding of gun owners and their rights but is extremely concerned about the fact that there is no clear law about how far away from a human you need to be to fire a gun. He is concerned about gun use in the neighborhood.

He noted incidents where his horse border Shauna Moore had horses spooked and he was afraid of injury to a person or animal, genuinely concerned about the safety of people and animals in the area. He said he feels like a prisoner on his own property and states he does not go outside that much any more. He did meet with their neighbors the Beans earlier today with the Fremont Police Department and felt with Officer Buckley's help that they reached a tentative agreement today.

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Weed is in agreement with the Second Amendment, but said you will never hear him blow them off on his own property out of respect for the Town, his neighbors and the Police Department. He said that what bothers him the most is people firing guns in this loophole of the law where it is not defined how far you have to be from a person. He stressed that people firing the guns are null and void of any actions that transpire after that.

There was understanding that the Police Department can only do so much due to the way the law is written, and Weed said not all neighbors have the same attitude about such activity. Weed said if he had a hobby that bothered his neighbors, he wouldn't do it. He felt like he wants to give the power back to the Police, noting this is the first time he has ever had to deal with the Police. He offered high praise for all of the officers they have been dealing with, and thanked them for their handling of the complaints thus far.

Chief Twiss came in to the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Weed said that Officer Buckley mediated a session today, which was civil, between the Weeds and the Beans and he hopes the tentative agreement will work, but was still not happy about the situation. He said he pays enough taxes that he should have to feel like a prisoner to their neighbors. He said he hopes and prays that no towns person would have to go through this and that no one gets hurt.

Andy Kohlhofer, 848 Main Street, said they have a horse too and asked for the Beans to call them before they start shooting so that his wife knows not to be riding so she doesn't get thrown off the horse. He noted situations where they thought an explosion had happened.

Shauna Moore stated she keeps two horses at the Weed's property, and she has been active there since last fall. Her horses are affected by it and sometimes she has to skip second feed because horses are worked up.

Officer Mike Buckley stated that he met today with Marvin and Dorothy Weed, Moore and Mr & Mrs Bean. They worked out something today with the Beans including a time schedule for Shauna to care for her animals.

FCTV Coordinator Bill Millios arrived to set up a mobile camera to record the balance of the meeting.

Gordon Muench spoke, stating the Beans are his in-laws and his children shoot there sometimes. He said he has a safe and the keys and his children are not shooting after nightfall. He said they don't own a cannon, and there are other people shooting in the area which may be some of what is heard.

Muench stated that as neighbors they have previously tried to work together, and ultimately the communications broke down, as there were no times that could be agreed to for the Beans to allow shooting on their property. Muench said he also has a horse, cows and other animals, and he feels like they have been good neighbors and they have helped each other. He noted his children help when the Weed animals get out of their enclosures. The Weeds agreed. Muench said he has tried to look out for the safety of their property. He did not know yet what the decision was from the mediation today, but said he is hoping that what they agreed to will work, and his family will adhere to whatever was agreed to between he Beans and the Weeds.

Based on a question, Chief Twiss said this area does not fit the definition of compact area.

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Chief Twiss explained his concerns about the liability involved in shooting and has met with the Beans a couple of times and made some recommendations they have implemented to try and make the situation and their property safer.

The Chief has reviewed it with the Department's prosecutor and there is nothing in the law says you can't shoot at night but Twiss said it is not a safe thing to do.

Dot Weed referred to the night shooting incident and what she saw and who she believed was responsible.

There was discussion about the Noise Ordinance that the Town previously had and what happened at the last Public Hearing many years ago when it was attempted to be made enforceable. Chief Twiss stated that the Department currently deals with such complaints under the Disorderly Conduct statute. He said complaints will be investigated by the Police. The first time warning and second time results in an arrest.

Janvrin said we had a similar situation on Karlin Road years ago and after some period of time reached an understanding in the neighborhood.

Cordes provided an overview of all the concerns expressed and thanked everyone for coming to the table this evening and continuing to work toward resolution that worked for everyone.

At 7:13 pm the neighbors left the meeting.

Chief Twiss then began his meeting with the Board, presenting a letter outlining items for discussion. He began with noting that evidence can be disposed of in a couple of ways by the Department. Currently they primarily use evidence room.com to sell it online and the Town gets a check. He noted they currently have 8 or 9 bicycles (all found property) that have been at the Complex for several years. He is looking to clear out the attic space, and asked for the Board to allow them to be disposed of as outlined by statute, which could be to sell at auction or be donated to bicycle safety programs with the consent of the local governing body to be used for any purpose. He noted Officer Mike Buckley has done a lot of community policing and safety programs at the school, and he is interested in working with Ellis School to give them out to kids who may need one. This is being coordinated with Ellis, and the PD also has bike helmets donated by the NH Department of Safety to go with the bikes.

Janvrin moved to allow the Chief to dispose of the bicycles as he sees fit. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0. Janvrin mentioned a bike rodeo which had been successful in the past.

Officer Buckley is also organizing a Fishing Derby on May 7. They are working with NH Fish & Game, on insurance paperwork and waivers, and looking for donations. He has received donations from local vendors for prizes and refreshments. The event would be for children under age 18 to be held at the Rislove (Fremont Land LLC) property (662 Main street) in the pond.

As they fine tune the details they will be shared and posted.

Twiss then said he had a line on a part-time officer. He is a retiree from Manchester PD 20+ years experience retiring as a Captain, with SWAT and various other types of training. He retired about a year ago and has stayed on there to work details. He is working full-time at Sig in Epping. He can do a couple of evening shifts for swing hours. Twiss feels he would be a great asset to the Department and is certified in many facets as an instructor. They have finished his background investigation and Twiss would like to move on to the next step and to make a conditional offer if the Board agrees. There would be another potential resource for the Department.

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Once he makes a conditional offer, they would proceed with the psychological and physical exams. Barham moved to have the Chief make a conditional offer to Joseph Mucci as a part-time police officer. Janvrin seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

Twiss said he is also working on an update to the vacation policy to present to the Board.

He noted the new holsters came in today, new firearms came in last week, and they are working on the transition to new weapons over the next week or so.

Cordes asked to set a time during one of the department meeting or trainings to do a meet and greet. Twiss said this would be great, and perhaps can be planned for April or May.

Lastly, he noted that Fremont formerly instructed a DARE Program at Ellis School. He has done some investigation into the newer, LEAD Program which is taught in grades K through 12. In Fremont with only grades K-8 there are a wide range of topics that could be instructed. There is an Instructor Training Class coming up this August and he would like to send Officer Buckley to it. The Board thought this would be a great opportunity for the Town and School District.

Chief Twiss left the meeting at approximately 7:45 pm.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Town Reports are available at Ellis School, Fremont Public Library, Town Hall, 1820 Market & Deli and Village Market.
2. Board members did not have any comments to Library HVAC replacement RFP document so long as the Trustees approved it. They were interested in seeing the design specifications and plans once they are available.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Payroll \$35,171.70 Accounts Payable \$964,173.82 manifests for the current week dated 03/04/2022. This includes a \$750,000 payment to the Fremont School District, just over \$80,000 to Primex for the annual cost of all the Town's property, liability and worker's compensation insurances.
- b. Timesheets for Department Heads for the pay period ending 02/26/2022
- c. FCTV Revolving Fund Manifest 2022-06 in the amount of \$139.97 to reimburse Greg Fraize for cabling equipment needed to set up the Ellis Gym for Deliberative Session and other events
- d. Eversource Pole Attachment Application and Permission to Temporarily Attach to include flags on poles for the Memorial Day through Independence Day season
- e. Letter to Waste Management regarding proposed out of contract pricing increase (edited prior to signing)
- f. Response letter to Josh Yokela regarding records request
- g. Letter to Albert Witham re: maintaining emergency access roadway for all season safe passage (edited prior to signing)

Barham moved to approve the Consent Agenda as read with the exception of the two letters that need some editing, and will be signed once edited. Janvrin seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

2. Board members reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence.
3. Board members reviewed an email from Dan Tatem with information on paving pricing for the 2022 season. Road Agent has been asked to schedule time with the Board in the coming weeks to review this and other spring work and updates. An email was sent to Tatem and the Road Agent this evening asking for the reduction in scope of work given the increased pricing.
4. Memorial Day plans are moving forward. Members were asked to review the list provided by Jeanne Nygren for some of our long-standing veteran's and making a choice for Grand Marshal. Ellis School has been requested in case of rain for the ceremony only.
5. The camera (#4) which has been out of service in the meeting room is bad. Access AV is checking on the warranty, but it is believed to be expired. Access will be providing Bill Millios with a quote to purchase a replacement camera to get the room back up to full strength with camera coverage.

VIII. WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. Theresa Walker (RPC Consultant) plans to have the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan ready for the Committee's review later this week. A final Committee meeting is set for noon on Wednesday March 30, 2022 to review the Plan before the Board's Public Hearing is scheduled.
2. A Board meeting is posted for next Tuesday all day at the polls at Ellis School. Board members will assist with polling duties, and handle other business as may come up during the day.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 10, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the basement meeting room at the Town Hall.

IX. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At approximately 8:15 pm a motion was made by Janvrin to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c) to discuss a small personnel question. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0 on a roll call vote: Cordes – yes; Janvrin – yes; Barham – yes.

Carlson left the room to prepare the edited letters to Waste Management and Albert Witham for signature.

Gordon Muench stayed to talk briefly with the Board and their non-public session began at approximately 8:30 pm.

A motion was made to return to public session at 8:32 pm by Janvrin. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0 on a roll call vote: Cordes – yes; Janvrin – yes; Barham – yes.

The Fire Chief's timesheet was reviewed briefly for clarification. No decisions were made.

With no further business which may legally come before the Board, a motion was made to adjourn at 8:35 pm by Janvrin. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson, Town Administrator